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RIVER TEES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

FIFTY-THIRD

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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RIVER TEES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1939-1940.

Middlesbrough Corporation
Representatives:

Alderman S.A.Sadler, J.P. (Chairman)
Alderman A.Elstrop, J.P.
Alderman H.D.Levick, M.B., F.R.C.S., J.P.
Councillor Sir W.H.Crosthwaite, J.P.
Councillor W.Eckert.
Councillor J.Taylor.
Councillor H.French.
Councillor H.Cordeux.

Stockton Corporation
Representatives:

Alderman J.Goldston.
Alderman E.Pickworth, J.P.
Alderman C.W.Allison.
Councillor W.Milburn Worth.

Thornaby Corporation
Representatives:

Alderman E.E.Brennan.
Councillor L.P.Trevett.

Eston U.D.C. Representatives:

Councillor E.J.Blanchard.
Councillor W.Fairbrass.
Councillor J.Evans.

Stockton R.D.C.
Representatives:

Councillor A.E.Ward.
Councillor C.H.Parkinson.

Redcar Corporation
Representatives:

Alderman C.Harris.
Councillor J.S.Dixon.

Billingham U.D.C.
Representatives:

Councillor Mrs. H.A.Martin.
Councillor Mrs. H.C.Davies.
Councillor Mrs. J.McLean.

STAFF OF THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY, 1939.

Clerk to the Board. - G.W.W.BARNLEY.
Deputy Clerk. - T.A.BANKS.
Medical Officer. - C.METCALFE BROWN, M.D., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.
Deputy Medical Officer. - T.LLOYD HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.
Sanitary Inspector. - A.N.JONES, C.R.S.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector. - R.J.KNOTT, C.R.S.I.
Rat Searcher. - T.WARWICK.
Launch Hands. - One Engineer and one Deck Hand.

RIVER TEES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

To the Chairman (Alderman S. A. Sadler, J.P.) and Members of
the River Tees Port Health Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting the FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT on the work of the River Tees Port Health Authority for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

The Ministry of Health Circular 1937 indicates that having regard to the desirability of reducing the number of records to be kept and to avoid, as far as possible, the disclosure of information relating to the movements of ships, it is desired that some modification of Annual Reports should be made during the period of the Emergency. Furthermore it is indicated that the Report should not be published. In accordance with these instructions this Report has been modified considerably as compared with the previous one.

TABLE A.

Amount of Shipping entering the port during the Year.

Number Inspected by the Medical Officer of Health.	Number Inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.	Number reported to be Defective.	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of Vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
309	2880	77	77	23

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS.

There were 13 instances of parrots found on board vessels and in every case written undertakings were given that the birds would either be destroyed or not landed.

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS.

DISEASE.	No. of cases during the year.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	5	5
Tuberculosis	-	2	2
TOTAL	-	8	8

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS OCCURRING ON VESSELS DURING THE VOYAGE
BUT DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

DISEASE	No. of cases during the year.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Chicken-pox	1	1	2
Malaria	-	4	3
Influenza	-	10	7
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Typhoid Fever	-	5 x	4
Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Totals	2	24	21

x Includes suspected cases.

RETURN OF CASES OF SICKNESS OR INJURY FOUND ON VESSELS
ENTERING THE PORT.

Abscess of groin ...	1
Asthma	1
Bronchitis	1
Burns	2
Dermatitis	1
Fibrositis	1
Heart failure	1
Hernia	1
Influenza	1
Injury to testicle..	1
Lumbago... ..	1
Pneumonia.	5
Pyrexia... ..	1
Pyelitis..	1
Orchitis..	1
Stomach trouble ...	1
Tuberculosis... ..	2
Ulcerated throat ...	1
Venereal Disease ...	7

Of the above 26 were treated at Hospital and at the Clinic, 2 were sent to their homes and 3 were treated on board.

RETURN OF CASES OF SICKNESS OR INJURY DEALT WITH
BEFORE ARRIVAL AT THIS PORT.

Asthma	...	...	...	2
Beri-beri..	...	...	...	1
Broken leg	...	...	...	1
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	2
Debility...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis..	...	...	...	1
Hæmorrhoids	...	...	...	3
Heart failure and heart trouble..	...	...	...	6
Influenza..	...	...	...	7
Kidney disease..	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia..	...	...	...	2
Poisoned hand..	...	...	...	1
Rheumatism	...	...	...	1
Scalds	...	...	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	1
* Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
* Typhoid fever...	...	...	...	5
Venereal disease	...	...	...	14

* Includes suspected cases.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

(a)	Destroyed	275
(b)	Bacteriologically examined..	11
(c)	Infected with Plague... ..	-

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

(a)	Destroyed	294
(b)	Bacteriologically examined	8
(c)	Infected with Plague... ..	-

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption
Certificates issued during the year.

No. of Ships.	Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued.					No. of Deratis- ation Exemption Certific- ates Issued.	Total Certificates Issued.
	After fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	Total.		
	HCN.	Sulphur.	HCN. and Sulphur.				
184	2	13	-	-	15	169	184

HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
102	32

GENERAL SANITARY SUPERVISION.

During the year, 77 informal or verbal notices dealing with 134 nuisances were served, all of which were complied with.

These related to:-

Defective ports	22
Choked or foul W.C.'s	14
Vermin	15
Defective flushing arrangements ...	11
Leaking overhead decks... ..	14
Forecastles requiring painting ...	8
Defective bulkhead..	5
Dirty forecastles	5
Defective heating	6
Insanitary W.C.'s... ..	4
Leaking steampipes..	4
Defective soil-pipes	3
Defective skylights	3
Defective bunk fittings..	3
Defective W.C. seats	2
Defective stove funnels..	2
Dirty washplaces	2
Dirty paintwork	1
Choked scupper	1
Defective ventilation	1
Defective lockers... ..	1
Defective doors	2
Water lodging on floor... ..	2
Defective floor in washplace.. ...	1
Dampness in forecastle... ..	1
Defective door locks	1

FOOD INSPECTION.

Consignments of foodstuffs have been systematically examined during the year.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unsound and unfit for food and were destroyed:-

2 tons 15 cwt. oranges.
7 tons 1 cwt. parsnips.
1 barrel strawberry pulp.
15 cwt. onions.

The following samples of foodstuffs were obtained for examination:-

Feb. 15th	1 tin pineapple. Result of analysis showed that tin was present to the extent of .56 grains per lb.
April 18th	1 tin Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk. The bacteriological report was satisfactory.
May 25th	Sample of periwinkles taken from Seal Sands, River Tees estuary. The bacteriological report stated that the shellfish were in a dirty condition but that no pathogenic organisms were found.
Nov. 8th	2 samples of strawberry pulp. Preservatives found were 1152 parts per million and 1454 parts per million respectively. These were well within the prescribed limits.
Dec. 15th	Sample of Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk. The result of the bacteriological examination showed that no pathogenic or other micro-organisms were present.

The Annual Meeting of the Association of the Port Health Authorities of the British Isles, was held at Middlesbrough in June, 1939 under the Presidency of Alderman S. A. Sadler, J.P., Chairman of the Tees Port Health Authority. An official welcome was given to the delegates by the Mayor, (Councillor W. Egerton Price, J.P.). The President gave his presidential address which was followed by the business session of the Association.

The delegates then boarded the Steam Tug "Sir Hugh Bell" on the invitation of the Tees Conservancy Commission and proceeded on an inspection of the River Tees.

The delegates disembarked at the 5th Buoy Light where they were entertained to luncheon by the Tees Conservancy Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Francis Samuelson, Bart., the Chairman of the Commission.

The delegates and their ladies were entertained to Dinner on the invitation of the Worshipful the Mayor and the Corporation of Middlesbrough at the Town Hall.

On the second day, a paper on "The River Tees" was given by Dr. C. Metcalfe Brown, and a paper on "The Food and Drugs Act, 1938", by Dr. M. T. Morgan.

The meeting ended with a Garden Party when the delegates and their ladies were entertained at Sadberge Hall, by Alderman S. A. Sadler, J.P. and Mrs Sadler.

Subsequently many letters of thanks have been received in Middlesbrough from the delegates of the meeting which have demonstrated that the meeting was regarded as being successful in every way.

I again wish to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman, Members and Staff of the Port Health Authority for their guidance and assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES METCALFE BROWN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Municipal Buildings.

March, 1940.

